

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 15, line 14 - page 16, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

Absorbent webs according to one aspect of the present invention may include coated superabsorbents between 30% and 98% by weight to yield a high capacity, strong and flexible absorbent that has high integrity both wet and dry. In another aspect, the web may include coated superabsorbents and synthetic staple binder fibers to stabilize the web. In another aspect, the web may include coated superabsorbent and meltblown fibers. In another aspect, superabsorbent material that is not coated may also be added to enhance the performance of the web. In yet another aspect, natural or synthetic fibers may also be added to further enhance capillarity, wet resiliency or other desired properties. The absorbent web suitably has a density between about 0.1 g/cc and about 0.5 g/cc.

Please replace the paragraph at page 17, lines 5-14, with the following amended paragraph:

The adding of particles, such as those of a coated superabsorbent, within the forming head 22 is done via a separate distribution unit 42 outside of the tubular forming screens 28, 30 at a location upstream in the MD, of the tubular forming screens, desirably at or near the upstream edge 44 of the forming unit 22. The reader is referred to ~~co-pending application [docket KCC-16075]~~ ~~filed concurrently herewith~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,709,613 for further edification concerning the addition of particulates to the web. The distribution unit 42 may for example have a hopper 46 and outlet 48 which extend across the CD of the forming head 22 to deposit particles of coated superabsorbent via a roller (not shown) through the top 50 of the forming head. One suitable distribution unit may be a particle feeder from Christy Machine Co. of Fremont, Ohio.

Please replace the paragraph at page 24, line 15 - page 25, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

Superabsorbent materials may be xerogels which form hydrogels when wetted. The term "hydrogel," however, has commonly been used to also refer to both the wetted and unwetted forms of the superabsorbent polymer material. Superabsorbent materials can be in many forms such as flakes, powders, particulates, and fibers. The particles can be of any desired shape, for example, spiral or semi-spiral, cubic, rod-like, polyhedral, etc. Needles, flakes, fibers, and combinations may also be used. The reader is referred to PCT Application WO 00/62922 (~~U.S. application Ser. No. 09/546,634, priority date Apr. 16, 1999~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,376,011) for embodiments of coated superabsorbent materials known in the art. ~~Copending application (attorney docket KCC 16,537), filed concurrently herewith,~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,709,613 describes particularly suitable coated superabsorbents for use in this invention.